

**Next Meeting: December 7, 2005
10:00 a.m. – Michigan Education Association**

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of November 2, 2005 Meeting

10:00 a.m.

Present: Cindy Anderson, Susan Backman, Beverly Baroni-Yeglic, Mike Beach, Patt Clement, Cheryl Ervin, Darlene Heard-Thomas, Donna Herrle, Elaine High, Jill Jacobs (for Barbara Stork), Patricia Keller, Linda Keway (for Ric Hogerheide), Dara Knill, Jim Kubaiko, Paul Kubicek, Jerry Oermann, Susan Peters, Anne Richardson, Chuck Saur, Jeff Siegel, Deb Todd, Jan VanGasse, Colette Ward, Julie Winkelstern, Michael Yocum
Ex-Officio Members: Lynn Boza, Lori Irish (for Sheri Falvay), Mark Larson, Lee Martin, Jacquelyn Thompson, LaDean Watts-George (for Michele Robinson)

Absent: Gloria Anderson, David Overly, Julie Shore

OSE/EIS Staff: Fran Loose, Pam Kies-Lowe, Ann Omens, Karen Rockhold, Janet Sheets, Dan Wilson

Guests: Caroline Coston, Michelle Driscoll, Robert Hove, Maggie Kolk, Sandi Laham, Richard Spring

Vice Chairperson Colette Ward called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests

Guests attending the meeting were introduced.

Amend/Approve Proposed Agenda

The agenda of the November 2, 2005 meeting was considered. The Action Items section was moved to before Future Agenda Items. Hearing no further amendments, the amended agenda was approved.

Amend/Approve Minutes

The minutes of the October 5, 2005 meeting were considered. Hearing no amendments, the minutes were approved.

Public Comment

None

Member Issues

Mark Larson raised the issue of the proposed program standards for the preparation of elementary teachers that would eliminate majors in special education areas for the initial certification of elementary teachers. Mark expressed concern that such an action would reduce the number of students seeking to become special education teachers in Michigan. Discussion followed.

Chairperson's Report – Colette Ward

Ric Hogerheide could not participate in today's meeting because he had IEPs to attend, so Vice Chairperson Colette Ward is acting as Chair in his absence. Colette explained that the State Performance Plan (SPP) work would be the major focus of the day. The Committee of the Whole will break into three groups and work through lunch in order to complete the task today. At 2:00, the Committee of the Whole will reconvene to share learning.

State Reports – Jacquelyn Thompson

A. State Board of Education Meeting

The primary agenda item at the November 15 State Board of Education meeting will be the recommendations of a task force led by Dr. Jeremy Hughes relative to recommendations for state high school graduation requirements. The Governor charged the Board with coming up with recommendations for high school graduation requirements. This issue has been getting a lot of attention in the print media.

B. IDEIA 2004 Reauthorization Activities

The development of the SPP has been the major activity related to IDEIA 2004 Reauthorization.

C. MDE OSE/EIS Activities

The OSE/EIS has been focused on the SPP since the technical assistance offered by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in August.

The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability is inviting individuals to participate in the standard setting process. Standard setting takes place after the assessment period is completed. The commitment would be a couple of days in December. If this work is of interest, paperwork is available at today's meeting.

Information Items

None

Ex-Officio Reports

Institutions of Higher Education – Mark Larson – None

Michigan Department of Community Health – Lori Irish – None

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth/Rehabilitation Services – Lynn Boza
– Lynn distributed two publications to those present: Michigan Rehabilitation Service (MRS)'s most recent brochure on outcomes for the current period and a fact sheet on what MRS did the past year related to transition.

Family Independence Agency – Lee Martin – None

Michigan Department of Corrections – LaDean Watts-George – None

Committee Reports

None

Member Announcements

None

Action Items

A. State Performance Plan – Karen Rockhold

Karen Rockhold presented a summary of today's process for providing input on the State Performance Plan and oriented the group to the indicators that would be addressed. In a shift from what was predicted at October's meeting, all twenty indicators will not be examined this month. Input is most needed on those indicators that the Department had to set targets for this year. The Department believes all proposed targets are measurable, but seeks input regarding rigor and achievability, or "stretch without breaking." In-depth conversation and input is not useful at this time for compliance indicators and new indicators because targets are either already set or cannot be set until baseline data is established.

Karen provided a summary of the basis and structure of the SPP. Her PowerPoint presentation will be sent to the listserv. She then classified each of the twenty indicators as either compliance indicators, new indicators, or indicators with targets set by the Department in December 2005. Some in that latter group already have targets set by No Child Left Behind (NCLB); the Department proposes using the NCLB targets for those indicators. The Department is looking at the SPP from a systems perspective and needs the SEAC to represent the real world, identifying any potential problems in implementing and/or achieving the targets in the field.

The Committee of the Whole worked in three groups to examine two or three indicators, and then reconvened to discuss the following learning:

- Group One – indicators 1, 2, 4 – Patt Clement and Deb Todd

Graduation (Indicator 1): The target for the indicator is acceptable. The group noticed that graduation rates from the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) and the US Department of Education are not the same. Public reporting is an issue; small numbers are a problem. The group would like progress shown and successes reported across the state.

Dropout (Indicator 2): The target for the indicator is acceptable. The group noticed that graduation rates from CEPI and the US Department of Education are

not the same. Emotional Impairment (EI) has highest dropout rate; Learning Disability has the largest number calculated. Exit reasons should be examined; some are appropriate, some are not. Accurate tracking is necessary. The group suggests programming in middle and high school for EI students because that subgroup has the highest dropout rate. Determine why those students are dropping out and examine the possible over-identification of EI students.

Suspension/Expulsion (Indicator 4): The group explained that the accuracy of reporting is in question because many zeros are being reported. It is suggested that the target remain at 1.4% until the data can be cleaned and the meaning of a reported zero clarified.

- Group Two – indicators 5, 6 – Paul Kubicek and Darlene Heard-Thomas

School Age Least Restrictive Environment (Indicator 5): The target for the indicator is acceptable. There was some question of whether less support is always in the best interest of the student. The group struggled with predicting past the 2005-06 school year because the baseline data will change due to a change in the way the data is calculated. The group recommends disaggregating the information by level (e.g., middle school, high school, etc.) in order to see if rigor in high school affects the data.

Pre-School Least Restrictive Environment (Indicator 6): The group proposed raising the target to 90% of preschool children receiving at least part of their educational opportunity with typically developing peers by the end of reporting cycle in 2010-2011. The targets proposed by the Department seemed reasonable but not rigorous. The group raised a concern that some districts may have logistical issues preventing moves from being immediate.

- Group Three – indicators 3, 19 – Jan VanGasse

State-Wide Assessment (Indicator 3): The group suggested maintaining the federal target of 95% rather than 100% as proposed by the Department. Concern was expressed about the Michigan Merit Exam and ACT proficiency rate. It should match what is required of the school to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), because if some other standard is set, it sends a mixed message. The group proposed possibly moving toward a growth-based assessment tool to meet the standard of AYP, thereby reducing the impact of subgroups on AYP.

Mediation (Indicator 19): The target for the indicator is acceptable. The group would like data regarding those not being afforded the opportunity to participate in the mediation process as well as anecdotal satisfaction data among those who participated.

Susan Peters mentioned that Least Restrictive Environment targets are related to increasing percentages, not necessarily increasing quality. One does not guarantee the other. Quality needs to be the focus of all indicators.

"We can, whenever and wherever we choose, successfully teach all children whose schooling is of interest to us. We already know more than we need in order to do this. Whether we do it must finally depend on how we feel about the fact that we haven't done it so far." –Ron Edmonds

Future Agenda Consideration

None

The meeting was adjourned.

Amanda Whitehead
Recording Secretary

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SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Executive Committee
Minutes of November 2, 2005 Meeting
8:45 a.m.

Present: Patt Clement, Patricia Keller, Paul Kubicek, Sandi Laham, Fran Loose, Karen Rockhold, Chuck Saur, Jacquelyn Thompson, Deb Todd, Colette Ward

Absent: Ric Hogerheide

Review of Today's Agenda

Jeremy Hughes cannot attend as originally projected due to high school task force deadlines.

Today's work on the State Performance Plan (SPP) is the only action item and will take the majority of the day. It will be moved before Future Agenda Items on the agenda so that most of the Committee of the Whole business may be conducted prior to the start of that work. Karen Rockhold provided a proposed agenda for today's SPP. Since the October meeting, it was determined that only the seven indicators that the Department had to set targets for in 2005 would be covered today rather than all twenty. Discussion on areas outside these seven would not be the best use of time. Fran Loose stated that anyone who did work on the indicators not being covered today would be invited to submit their input to the Department via email to Amanda Whitehead.

The SEAC will be divided into three groups and focus on two or three indicators each. Group one will cover graduation/dropout and suspension/expulsion; group two will cover least restrictive environment for both school age and preschool; group three will cover AYP/assessment and mediation. Jacquelyn Thompson mentioned that the SPP would be finished by Thanksgiving, submitted to the OSEP by December 2, and adjustments could be made in the future. Sandi Laham pointed out that the SEAC isn't approving these targets, they are advising with regard to them. Karen summarized that the entire SEAC would reconvene at the end of the day to share their learning.

State Department Report

Jacquelyn stated that the major issue going before the State Board of Education on November 15 is the recommendations for state high school graduation requirements. Both IDEIA Reauthorization Activities and MDE OSE/EIS Activities currently revolve around the development of the State Performance Plan.

The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability is requesting individuals to participate in the standard setting process. Peggy Dutcher wished to extend an invitation to SEAC members. Standard setting takes place after the assessment period is completed. People are needed by November 11. Information will be available for distribution at today's Committee of the Whole meeting.

Subcommittee Reports

None

Future Agenda Development

None

Other Issues

None